



BOROUGH OF YEOVIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1951

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BOROUGH OF YEOVIL

Mayor :

ALDERMAN S. VINCENT

Deputy Mayor :

ALDERMAN B. DENING

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Alderman W. J. C. PITTARD (Chairman)

Alderman B. DENING (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor C. B. GOSLING

Councillor S. J. RICKETTS

Councillor L. KIBBY

Councillor A. C. SINGLETON

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer :

P. POWER FOX, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officer :

M. I. ROSS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon QUENTIN DAVIES, L.D.S., R.C.S.
(ENGLAND)

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Sewage
and Destructor Works Manager .. C. G. H. RICE, M.S.I.A., A.Inst.S.P.
Cert. R.S.I., S.I.J.B., Cert. R.S.I.,
Meat and Food.

Sanitary Inspectors G. E. ROADHOUSE, M.S.I.A.,
A.R.SAN.I., Cert.R.S.I., S.I.J.B.,
Cert. R.S.I., Meat and other
Foods.
L. MORGAN, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.,
Cert.R.S.I., S.I.J.B., Cert.R.S.I.,
Meat and other Foods.

Student Sanitary Inspector W. J. PEARCE.

TO THE
MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE
YEOVIL BOROUGH COUNCIL

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1951.

GENERAL REMARKS

The health of the community has been satisfactory there being no major epidemic of illness with the exception of an outbreak of measles. During the year 480 cases were notified as compared with 75 for the previous year. In general the type of disease was mild, but one death was recorded as being due to measles.

The *Death Rate* was 14.23; the corrected death rate being 12.97. The provisional Death Rate for England and Wales was 12.5.

The *Birth Rate* was 15.38; the corrected Birth Rate being 15.53 as compared with 15.4 for the previous year. The provisional Birth Rate for England and Wales was 15.5.

HOUSING

During the year 127 houses were completed as compared with 80 houses for the year 1950. Unfortunately the demand for houses shows no appreciable lessening.

APPLICANTS ON THE WAITING LIST AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1951—

	1951	1950
Sub-tenants with children	390	380
Sub-tenants with no children	298	227
Householders with children	408	380
Householders without children	111	98
Tenants of Huts with children	22	20
Tenants of Huts without children	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1230	1107
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The attention of members of the Council is drawn to the Chief Sanitary Inspector's remarks with regard to the fitness of the older type of properties.

HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

A resume of the activities of the School Medical Service is included in the report as it is considered that it would be of interest to members of the Council. The report relates to the Divisional School Area, i.e. Yeovil Borough and Yeovil Rural District. I am indebted to Dr. Davidson, County School Medical Officer, for permission to publish the report.

I wish to take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the help and co-operation received from the Council and Members of the Staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

P. POWER FOX.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough	2,256 acres
Rateable Value (31st March, 1952)	£179,752
Estimated Produce of 1d. rate in the year ending 31st March, 1952	£726
Number of inhabited houses (31st March, 1952) ..	6,868
Population	23,410

REGISTERED LIVE BIRTHS

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	345	163	182
Illegitimate	15	7	8
	<hr/> 360	<hr/> 170	<hr/> 190

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	15.3
Corrected Birth Rate	15.4

STILL BIRTHS

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	7	1	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grand Total :	7	1	6

Still birth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	19.0
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DEATHS

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
	333	161	172
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	14.23
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population ..	..	..	12.97

MATERNAL DEATHS

Puerperal Sepsis .. .. .	..	..	Nil
Other Puerperal causes .. .. .	..	..	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

All Infants	9	Rate per 1,000 live births ..	25
Legitimate Infants	9	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	23
Illegitimate Infant	—	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

	1950	1951
Deaths from Heart Diseases (all ages) ..	92	113
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	38	46
Deaths from Phthisis (all ages)	8	12

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures for the Borough was 360 live births; 170 were male and 190 were female.

Of these, 15 were illegitimate (7 males and 8 females).

The table below shows the birth rate for the previous 10 years.

BIRTH RATES

1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
18.1	19.7	21.7	19.4	19.5	20.3	16.4	15.8	14.6	15.3

DEATHS

After correction for transferable deaths the net total assigned to the Borough was 333, Viz : 161 males and 172 females. The crude death rate was 14.23 as compared with 11.52 for the previous year. The corrected death rate was 12.97 as compared with 10.59 for the previous year.

There were 198 deaths occurring in persons over 70 years of age. The primary cause of death was heart disease (113), with cancer second 46.

The following table shows the causes of death and the sex distribution.

CAUSES OF DEATH	1951	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ..	6	6
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	1	1
Whooping Cough	—	1
Measles	1	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	4	1
" " Lung or Bronchus	8	—
" " Breast	—	2
" " Uterus	—	5
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ..	14	12
Diabetes	1	—
Vascular lesions of the Nervous System ..	24	24
Coronary Disease Angina	14	15
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1
Other Heart Disease	35	47
Other Circulatory Disease	7	4
Influenza	6	13
Pneumonia	4	8
Bronchitis	9	5
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System ..	—	1
Ulcer of Duodenum and Stomach	4	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and diarrhoea	—	3
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	4	—
Congenital Malformation	2	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	11	12
All other accidents	—	5
Suicides	1	2
All causes	161	172
.. Grand Total 333		

CANCER

The number of deaths due to cancer (all forms) was 46. The table as set out below shows the incidence of cancer for previous years.

1930	1935	1940	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
16	28	36	27	35	41	37	50	38	46

CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION

<i>Year</i>	1930	1935	1940	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Yeovil Borough ..	0.8	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.8	1.5	2.1	1.58	2.06
County of Somerset ..	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.07	1.9	1.9	1.89	—
England and Wales ..	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.94	1.96

The following table shows the age incidence of Cancer Deaths

	<i>Over 20 years</i>	<i>30 years</i>	<i>40 years</i>	<i>50 years</i>	<i>60 years</i>	<i>70 years</i>
Male	1	1	1	3	7	12
Females	—	1	1	8	4	7

Cancer is now one of the principal causes of death, occupying second place, heart disease being the principal cause.

The following comments are I think relevant :—

(i) There is no reliable evidence that the incidence of cancer is increasing, the apparent increase being due to :

(a) Improved methods of diagnosis.

(b) The effect of an ageing population.

In regard to (b) the average expectation of life in England and Wales in 1838-1854 was 41 years approximately; in 1945 the average expectation of life in the United States—which is roughly comparable with England and Wales—was 65 years.

(ii) That Cancer is an hereditary disease. This is not proven, any factor, if present, being so weak as to be of no significance.

(iii) That Cancer is infectious or contagious. Not proven.

Available figures for England and Wales tend to show that cancer mortality would be reduced if the interval between the onset of the first symptoms and treatment could be lessened. Part of this delay is due to patients not being admitted to hospitals immediately application is made, but most of the delay is the interval between the patient first noticing symptoms and consulting his doctor. The Americans claim that by cancer education the Massachusetts Public Health Authorities have in 10 years reduced the interval between the patient first noticing symptoms and going to a doctor from six to three months.

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of children dying within the first twelve months of life was 9 as compared with 7 for the previous year. The rate per 1,000 of live births was 25.0 as compared with England and Wales of 29.6.

The table as set out below shows the number of deaths, and Infantile Mortality Rate as compared with previous years.

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Number of Deaths	23	12	17	14	14	7	9
Rate per 1,000 live births Yeovil	53.9	27.8	37.1	36.4	37.4	20	25
Rate per 1,000 live births in England and Wales ..	46	43	41	34	32	29.8	29.6

CAUSES OF DEATH

Prematurity	..	..	..	..	3
Congenital Causes	..	..	..	..	2
Spina Bifida	..	..	..	..	1
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	2
Whooping Cough			..	..	1
					—
Total	..	..	..	..	9
					—

AGE OF DEATH

Under 24 hours	Under 1 week	1 month or under	Under 1 year
6	6	6	9

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the details of infectious diseases notified during the year and also the figures for the previous year.

DISEASE	<i>Cases Notified</i>	
	1950	1951
Poliomyelitis	4	2
Scarlet Fever	9	5
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	2
Measles	75	480
Pneumonia	13	16
Erysipelas	1	4
Whooping Cough	27	49
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	14
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	5
Anthrax	—	1
Typhoid	—	1

DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

The number of children immunised against Diphtheria, or Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, is as follows, the figures for the year 1950 being shown in brackets. Under 5 years of age 330 children (239) of whom 185 (118) were treated at the Clinic, the remainder being immunised by their private doctor. In addition 78 (34) school children were immunised for the first time and 695 (172) children received a reinforcement dose.

These figures show a considerable improvement on the previous year's figures.

With regard to Diphtheria the fall in the incidence of Diphtheria may be measured by the following figures :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>England and Wales</i> <i>No. of cases of Diphtheria</i>	<i>Yeovil Borough</i> <i>No. of cases due to Diphtheria</i>
1941	50,797	30
1950	980	Nil.

The following table shows the number of children immunised at 31st December, 1951 :

						<i>Total under</i>
0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-15	15
year	years	years	years	years	years	years
25	252	276	317	382	3,660	4,912

INFANT VACCINATION

The number of infants, under the age of twelve months, vaccinated during the year was 185. The number of children born in 1950 was 350 i.e. approximately 53%. So far as can be judged this figure is considerably higher than that for England and Wales. In 1946 prior to the abolition of compulsory vaccination the figures for England and Wales of infants vaccinated was 41.6%; in 1948 it has been estimated that the figure had dropped to 20%, and in 1949 the % figure of infants vaccinated was 27%.

The value of individual vaccination, in my opinion, cannot be doubted. In the Brighton epidemic eight of the fourteen members of the staff working in the affected ward were unvaccinated, all contracted smallpox, and five died. The remaining six of the staff had been vaccinated at some time and all escaped the disease. Due to the increased facilities for international travelling the risk of importation of the disease is greater. All parents are advised to have their children vaccinated, preferably at about the age of 4 months.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year was 31, non-pulmonary 3. There were 12 deaths recorded as due to pulmonary tuberculosis, nil for non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
No. of cases notified Pulmonary	31	23	22	26	36	30	24
" " " " Non-Pulmonary	3	8	2	5	8	8	7
No. of deaths Pulmonary	12	8	5	2	7	6	18
" " " " Non-Pulmonary	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Death rate of Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	0.51	0.33	0.21	0.1	0.31	0.3	0.6

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

As in previous years the Mass Radiography Service visited Yeovil a total of 3,015 individuals being examined. The figures do not relate entirely to the Borough as they include people resident in the Yeovil Rural District. The value of this service is becoming more appreciated each year and a feature of this year's survey was the relatively high number of school children examined, viz. 556, of whom one was found to have unsuspected active pulmonary tuberculosis. The total number of active pulmonary tuberculosis cases discovered was 8. The table below sets out the extent to which the service has been used in recent years and the value of the surveys.

<i>No. of people examined</i>		<i>No. of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis Diagnosed</i>	
		<i>Active</i>	<i>Inactive</i>
1948 (Two visits)	4,260	9	32
1949	2,298	13	31
1950	2,316	4	41
1951	3,015	8	34

As in previous years my thanks are due to the Organising Secretary, Mr. Coffey, for the co-operation I have received from him in arranging these visits.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

BIRTHS

<i>Live Births</i>	Legitimate	345	Illegitimate	15	Total	360
<i>Still Births</i>	Legitimate	7	Illegitimate	0	Total	7

INFANT DEATHS

Number	Legitimate	9	Illegitimate	—	Total	9
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ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

The number of expectant mothers seen at the Ante-Natal Clinics was 147, the total number of attendances being 356. In addition, 44 mothers attended for Post-Natal examinations. With regard to the above figures not all expectant mothers seen were resident in Yeovil Borough.

DENTAL TREATMENT

Number of Ante-natal cases	..	78
Number of Post-natal cases	..	25
Number of children under 5 years		298

INFANT WELFARE

Total number of children attending		741
Total number of children attending for first time	.. .. .	339
Total number of attendances made		4,123

HOME VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS

Infants :—

Primary visits	.. .. .	359
Subsequent visits	.. .. .	3,440
Visits to children 1 to 5 years	..	4,822

BLOOD EXAMINATION CLINIC

The number of expectant mothers attending this clinic showed a considerable increase, the number of blood tests taken during the year being 656 as compared with 391 for the previous year. Apart from the immediate value of the test there is being built up in the Department a register showing the Blood Group, etc., of a considerable proportion of the population—records are held of approximately 1,300 individuals.

The average percentage of Haemoglobin of over 591 patients was 73% as compared with 78% for the previous year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

No action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act.

FOOD POISONING

One case of Typhoid was notified, the clinical diagnosis being confirmed by blood tests and isolation of the organism from the faeces. Investigation of the immediate contacts was negative. As there was a possibility of the infection being contracted elsewhere the Medical Officers of Health of the various areas concerned were notified.

P. POWER FOX,
Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN
(YEOVIL DIVISIONAL AREA)

REPORT FOR 1951

ASTHMA BREATHING EXERCISES CLINIC

During the year the total number of children attended was 30, of whom 10 were new cases. The total number of attendances was 311. It has been found that attendances tend to fall during the school holidays, but in general the parents and the child have co-operated extremely well and in such cases steady improvement has been indicated.

The children are reviewed by a Medical Officer at periodic intervals and depending on the improvement achieved the interval between attendance at the clinic is changed to once a fortnight or once a month. In some cases it has been found that the child need only attend once in every three months, merely to check that the child is still carrying out the exercises in the correct manner.

As was stated in the previous annual report the purpose of these exercises is not to cure asthma, but by teaching the child to control its breathing, to abort an attack or to minimise the severity of an attack.

The details of the following cases are indicative of the value of these exercises :—

1. MICHAEL B. Aged 12 years. Before commencing treatment his chest expansion was 1 inch and there was a history of asthma attacks every three to four weeks. He commenced attending the clinic in September, 1950. Chest expansion is now $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches and the total number of attacks during the past 20 months has been 16 and these attacks have been much less severe.

Miss Waltham reports that the child is now very much self-confident and has won a scholarship to the Yeovil Boy's Grammar School. He has also become a very keen swimmer.

2. VALERIE M. Aged 8 years. Before commencing treatment her chest expansion was 1 inch and there was a history of attacks of asthma every 3 months, the child having to be confined to bed. She commenced attendance in October, 1950, her chest expansion is now 3 inches. There have been no attacks this winter and the number of attacks since she started the exercises have been only 3. Her general posture is excellent and she now attends the clinic once a month, but she carries out the exercises daily at home.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

Sixty-four children were examined in connection with the above, two were found unfit for employment out of school hours.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT

After discussion with the County School Medical Officer, the South Somerset Hospital Management Committee were approached with a view to the use of the Borough Swimming Bath in connection with the rehabilitation of children suffering from orthopaedic defects, especially those defects following Anterior Poliomyelitis and postural defects. Arrangements were made by the South Somerset Hospital Management Committee with the Yeovil Borough Council whereby the swimming bath was reserved on Saturday mornings for such cases. The rehabilitation class commenced on 4th August, 1951, the average attendance being 17 per session. These swimming classes, under the supervision of the Orthopaedic Sister, have proved very beneficial.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

During the year 556 schoolchildren were examined by the Mass Radiography Unit of whom one child was found to have active Tuberculosis. It was not found possible for mobile unit to visit the Rural District schools but by special arrangement the Mass Radiography Service arranged for transport to be provided for the staff and senior scholars of Stoke Secondary Modern School to attend the unit in Yeovil.

GRAMOPHONE AUDIOMETER

During the year 292 children were tested for the first time and a further 117 children were retested who had been tested in previous years, making a grand total of 409 children. The total number of schools visited for examination purposes during the year was 24. 24 of the 70 children who failed were referred for minor ailment treatment, either to their own private doctors or to the clinic. A further 12 were referred to the hospital for treatment or observation by the E.N.T. specialist, the remaining 34 children are under observation and will be retested during the coming year.

In all cases the parents and schoolteachers were informed where this was considered advisable.

To date, as a result of audiometric examinations, two children have been fitted with hearing aids and a third child has been referred to Bristol with a view to being fitted with a hearing aid.

An analysis of children tested by the Gramophone Audiometer, who were found to have defective hearing due to wax, showed that the average loss of hearing ranged from 3 to 21 decibels. After removal of the wax the average improvement in each ear was 8.3 decibels, this represents approximately a 30% improvement in the range of hearing.

A more practical appreciation of the above is obtained if it is realized that a child, who has a loss of hearing in both ears of 6 to 12 decibels, would have slight difficulty in hearing with a consequent tendency to inattention if seated at the back of the classroom, particularly if the schoolroom abutted on to a noisy street. A child with a loss of hearing of 12 to 21 decibels would almost inevitably have difficulty in hearing the teacher, unless the difficulty was recognised, and even so would entail continuous concentration on the part of the child—a handicap which would not be reasonable to expect the child to shoulder. Further degrees of loss of hearing verges almost on complete deafness.

Fortunately in a considerable percentage of those children examined, and who have been found to have loss of hearing, the loss of hearing has been unilateral, and by the co-operation of the teaching staff, which has always been willingly extended, a considerable improvement has been effected by placing the children at lessons to a particular side of the teacher. Where the deafness has been bilateral the child has been placed in the front of the class as near as convenient to the teacher.

REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SEWAGE AND DESTRUCTOR WORKS MANAGER for the year 1951

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH AND SANITARY
COMMITTEE :

Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Report for 1951, and in so doing would record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Sanitary Committee for their continued support, also to the members of the staff of my Department for their valued assistance during the year.

Mr. Morgan, of Portsmouth, commenced his duties as an additional Sanitary Inspector in October, for the main purpose of inspecting all food premises.

NUISANCES

COMPLAINTS

Included below is a list of the various complaints received by the Department during the year.

General housing defects	44
Defective drainage, cesspools, etc.	23
Smoke, dust and effluvia nuisances	6
Rats and mice	53
Verminous premises	27
Kitchen waste bins	5
Overcrowding	6
Keeping of animals	7
Foodstuffs and food premises ..	4
Dumping of refuse ..	1
Nuisances from water courses ..	4
<hr/>	
Total	180
<hr/>	

HOUSING

OVERCROWDING

It is estimated that there are still a large number of cases of overcrowding probably in the region of 50 of which about 30 are applicants for Council Houses. Many houses although not overcrowded continue to be occupied by more than one family.

FITNESS OF HOUSES

In the annual report of 30 years ago it was stated that of a number of older houses inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909, 50% were found to have defects of one sort and another, 25% considered as falling below reasonable standards for that period. Today when inspecting older properties it is seldom possible to find even 10% free from defects and as many as 75% would fall below reasonable standards. This position has been gradually worsening. Because of the housing shortage the older properties are still retained for habitation. At the same time, while the Rent Restriction Act retains rentals at their 1939 level, with the increased cost of housing repairs, it is difficult to get even urgent repairs carried out.

FOOD INSPECTION

FOOD PREMISES

With the appointment of another additional Inspector, special attention has been given in the first place to the 21 catering establishments in the Borough, ten of which were found to be without washing facilities required by the Food and Drugs Act. Only one had insufficient sanitary accommodation but all were, at the time of inspection, found to be kept reasonably clean. Regular routine inspection is now being carried out and all premises including food preparing establishments, hotels and public houses, etc. will be given periodical inspection.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The Ministry of Food continue to occupy and use the premises in Queen Street, whilst at the Bacon Factory at Preston pig killing has increased during the twelve months.

Comparative figures of all animals slaughtered since 1945 are included below. The figures are, of course, for the meat supplies within the Borough and also the Rural areas supplied from the Yeovil Centre.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Bullocks</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Total</i>
1945	2761	8167	604	2373	13905
1946	2461	9729	395	2144	14729
1947	1942	6024	217	2363	10546
1948	1590	5472	577	1982	9621
1949	1757	6384	589	1631	10361
1950	2152	7587	7203	1092	18034
1951	2491	5654	9513	62	17720

The following statement contains particulars of the number of carcasses killed and inspected during the year together with the amounts of meat condemned.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	1520	971	62	5654	9513
Number inspected	1520	971	62	5654	9513
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i> Whole carcasses con- demned	2	7	5	29	35
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	44	352	39	126	173
% of number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	3.02%	36.97%	70.96%	2.74%	2.18%
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> Whole carcasses con- demned	5	15	—	—	22
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	56	209	—	—	401
% of number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis	4.01%	23.06%	—	—	4.44%

MEAT OTHER THAN CARCASSES CONDEMNED

			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	
BEEF	2	2	—	1	} T.B., Bruising Abscesses, Deformities, etc.
MUTTON	..	..			2	19
PORK	..	..		8	1	19
VEAL	..	..				9

OFFAL CONDEMNED

			<i>Bullocks</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Calves</i>
Livers	..	..	315	164	190	—
Part Livers	..	..	419	—	—	—
Lungs	..	..	171	78	379	—
Lungs and Hearts	..	..	104	16	86	—
Heads and Tongues	..	..	169	—	212	—
Plucks	..	..	—	41	237	—
Milts	..	..	50	—	—	—
Skirts	..	..	59	—	—	—
Tripes	..	..	77	—	—	—

CANNED FOODS CONDEMNED

Meat	356 tins	} Damaged or unsound and unfit for human consumption
Milk	..	..	..	179 tins
Fruit and Vegetables	..	..	..	650 tins
Fish	..	..	..	76 tins
Jams	..	..	..	12 tins
Ham	..	..	..	2 tins
Chicken	2 tins	
Total				1277 tins	

UN SOUND FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

Flour	3 packets	} Damaged or unsound and unfit for human consumption
Cheese	..	..	..	10 lbs.
Cheeses	..	..	..	39 packets
Melons	..	..	..	1 case
Eggs	..	..	..	25
Sponge Rolls	..	..	..	16
Jams	..	..	..	48 jars
Potato Crisps	..	..	..	29 packets
Gooseberries	..	..	..	7 bottles
Flavouring Essences	..	..	..	19 Bottles
Loose Tinned Ham	6½ lbs.	

NOTE.—A percentage of the above has been disposed of as pig food.

FISH CONDEMNED

Cod	8½ stones	} Damaged or unsound and unfit for human consumption
Plaice	..	..	..	8 stones
Smoked Fillets	..	..	..	6 stones
Bream Fillets	..	..	..	3 stones
Melts	..	..	..	4 stones
Bloaters	..	..	..	4 stones
Herrings	..	..	..	3 stones
Whelks	1 gallon	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following disinfections were carried out in connection with the above.

Houses disinfected	9
Rooms sprayed or fumigated ..	70
Tuberculosis	47
Vermin	27
Cancer	10
Steam disinfections	29
Library Books	80
Miscellaneous	8

VERMIN INFESTATION

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

1. SEWERAGE

During the year the sewerage system in the Borough was again tested for rats. The following figures show the work carried out.

Areas test baited	7
Points baited	108
Negative results (presumed clear) ..	101
Total number of visits made ..	216

2. PRIVATE PREMISES (including business premises)

Number of premises visited ..	131
No. of premises baited	129
No. of premises clear	2
Total number of visits	655
Total number of points baited ..	1393
Number of premises cleared ..	123

3. CORPORATION PREMISES

Inspection and treatment are carried out at the Corporation Sewage and Destructor Works and Refuse Tip regularly. This work is done as a practical measure in order to keep any infestations under control. During the year approximately 220 visits were made and more than 1300 points baited.

FOOD AND DRUGS—MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

The following are particulars from the Register.

(a) Number of Retailers	12
(b) Number of Producers-Retailers included in (a)	3
(c) Number of licensed Pasteurising Plants ..	3

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1949.

APPLICATIONS GRANTED TO RETAILERS FOR REGISTRATION UNDER THE ABOVE REGULATIONS

(a) Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	8
(b) Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	5

GRADED MILK PRODUCERS IN THE DISTRICT

(a) Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	3
(b) Accredited	..	..	..	..	1
(c) Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	3

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

APPLICATIONS GRANTED FOR REGISTRATION OF PREMISES AND PERSONS

for Sale and Storage of Ice Cream	9
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ICE CREAM

TOTAL NUMBER OF PREMISES REGISTERED AT END OF YEAR

(a) Manufacture, Sale and Storage	2
(b) Sale and storage only	..	..	71

MILK

<i>Samples taken by Sanitary Inspector's Dept.</i>			<i>*Samples taken by Somerset County Council</i>	
	<i>T.T.</i>	<i>Pasteurised</i>	<i>T.T.</i>	<i>Pasteurised</i>
Number taken	15	17	nil	169
Number passed	15	16	nil	168
Number failed	nil	1	nil	1

*Taken from reports received by the Sanitary Inspector's Dept.

SAMPLES
ICE CREAM

<i>Number taken</i>	<i>Placed in Provisional grades</i>			
	1.	2.	3.	4.
72	68	4	nil	nil

SWIMMING BATHS WATER

<i>Number taken</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>
7	7	nil

WATER

<i>Source</i>	<i>Bacteriological</i>			<i>Chemical</i>		
	<i>Number taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Number taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Main Supplies (to cover all sources)	25	24	1†	—	—	—
Source Supplies (supplying mains)	56	46	10*	9	9	—

†A repeat sample was satisfactory.

*Water from these sources is chlorinated before passing to the mains.

The water supply for the year was satisfactory in quantity and quality.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

The number of inspections made, together with the results, are given in the following tables.

INSPECTIONS

Houses and other premises inspected under	
Housing and Public Health Acts	219
Number of inspections made for the purpose	223
Complaints	153
Drainage	105
Verminous Premises	15
Moveable Dwellings	3
Smoke Nuisances	2
Smoke Observations	3
Dust Nuisances	5
Interviewing Owners, Builders, etc.	278
Offensive Trades	3
School Sanitary Accommodation	12
Rodents	246
Rag Flock and other Fillings	9
Workplaces	11
Miscellaneous	303

FOOD PREMISES

Slaughterhouses	1186
Butchers' Shops	71
Cafes, Restaurants, etc.	73
Bakehouses	50
Cowsheds	7
Dairies	32
Icecream Premises	107
Re Application for Registrations	2
Fish Shops	54
Other Premises	334
Food Shops inspected for Sanitary Accommodation	80

SAMPLES TAKEN

Water —Bacteriological	81
—Chemical	9
Icecream	72
Swimming Baths Water	7
Sewage Effluent	1

RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

GENERAL DEFECTS

Roofs repaired	35
Chimneys rebuilt or repaired	31
Guttering repaired	37
Downspouts repaired	12
Walls repaired	37
Walls rendered	34
Walls redecorated	37
Windows repaired	13
Windows painted	1
Doors renewed	5
Doors repaired	3
Doors painted	10
Ceilings repaired	22
Ceilings whitened	17
Skirting boards repaired	8
Floors repaired	17
Dampness remedied	25
Ventilation improved	2
Staircase repaired	1
Cooking ranges repaired	1
Yards paved	1
Yards repaired	2
Rooms disinfected	70
Rooms disinfested	27
Bedding disinfected	12
Bedding destroyed	2

DRAINAGE

Drainage relaid	28
Drainage repaired	29
Choked drains cleared	40
W.C's. built	4
W.C's. repaired	20
New W.C. pans provided	12
Sinks provided	18
Gulleys provided	27
Baths fixed	2
Hand basins provided	2
Urinals repaired	1
Inspection chambers built	15
Interceptors fixed	3
C.I. covers provided	9
Cesspits connected to sewers	2

STATUTORY ACTION TAKEN UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

<i>Act and Section</i>	<i>Statutory notice served</i>	<i>Abated</i>	<i>In hand</i>
Public Health Act, 1936 Section 138 as amended by Section 30, Water Act, 1945	3	3	—
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 44	1	1	—

HOUSING ACT, 1936

	<i>Number of houses</i>	<i>Number of persons displaced</i>
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 11 ..	Nil	Nil
b) Houses demolished as a result of in- formal notices preliminary to formal procedure under Section 11	Nil	Nil
(c) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section II	1	3
(d) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	1	Nil
(e) Houses made fit :—		
(i) as a result of formal notices under Sections 9 and 12	Nil	Nil
(ii) as a result of informal notices pre- liminary to formal procedure under Sections 9 and 12	Nil	Nil
(iii) as a result of an undertaking under Section II	2	Nil
HOUSING ACT, 1949		
(f) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1)	Nil	Nil
(g) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substitutes under Section 3 (2)	Nil	Nil
(h) Demolition Orders quashed under Section 2	Nil	Nil

FACTORY ACT, 1937

Visits re nuisances, sanitary accommodation, etc.	108
Inspections re Section 34 (Means of Escape in Case of Fire)	88

SEWAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL WORKS

SEWAGE WORKS

The Works have been kept going as satisfactorily as possible during the year. Some improvement has been made in the method of disposal of sludge.

NEW SEWAGE WORKS

Some delay has occurred in connection with the proposed new works regarding the present restrictions on expenditure for schemes other than Housing or Re-armament. The consulting engineers have, however, now prepared the bills of quantities and contract documents.

DESTRUCTOR

As much as possible of the Town's refuse is passed through the destructor. Disposal has been very much helped since the fixing of the screen. Nevertheless, the destructor cells have only been kept going by constant repairing because of structural weakness. The destructor was built 40 years ago and at that time dealt with about 2,500 tons of refuse per annum. Except for the addition of another cell in 1930 no major alterations have been carried out and today the amount of refuse collected in the Town is in the region of 7,500 tons per annum. The cell capacity is therefore very inadequate and tipping continues to form part of the disposal method.

REFUSE DISPOSAL TIP

As already stated controlled tipping continues to form part of the method of disposal. This has meant a rapid increase of the area of ground covered but has the benefit of overcoming the previous continuous smoke nuisance from burning refuse. Difficulty, however, still occasionally arises from sporadic outbreaks of fire caused by youths frequenting the Tip after hours and also doing wanton damage to the track, etc. These fires have at times meant calling out the Fire Service and also asking the Police for special patrols.

SALVAGE

The amounts of salvage materials collected and sold during the year 1951 are shown below together with the corresponding amounts for the years 1947 to 1950.

<i>Materials</i>	1947		1948		1949		1950		1951	
	<i>Tons</i>	£	<i>Tons</i>	£	<i>Tons</i>	£	<i>Tons</i>	£	<i>Tons</i>	£
Paper	150	1068½	203	1585½	134	925	99¼	378¾	92	1327½
Ferrous Metals ..	10½	24½	103¾	146	60¾	68	60	60¼	78	169
Non-ferrous do. ..	¼	2	—	—	⅛	⅞	—	2⅛	—	2⅝
Rags	¾	16½	½	10¾	½	10	—	—	—	—
Bones	3½	19⅞	2¾	15¾	2¼	13	2¾	15½	2½	15
Kitchen Waste ..	451½	1354½	501¾	1505¾	451	1445⅜	474¼	1866⅞	465¾	1863
Bottles (dozens) ..	1931¼	135¼	5207	257	448	10½	84	4¼	—	—
Misc. Sales ..	—	5	—	61¾	½	2¼	—	58½	—	*73⅜
TOTALS	616½	2625⅜	811¾	3582½	649⅞	2475¼	636¼	2386¼	638¼	3450½

*This includes an item of £47 for cooking potatoes for pig food.

The tonnage of paper disposed of is slightly below the previous year but returns show a very substantial increase due to the abnormal demand which prevailed for this material. Paper is still salvaged from both the tip and the destructor.

Kitchen waste tonnage is below the previous year and this is probably due in some degree to pilfering from street bins.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. G. H. RICE.

